



## St Thomas' Church, Goring-on-Thames Organ Scholarship

The Organ Scholarship is part of The St Thomas' Organ Rebuild and Musical Outreach Project. During 2022, the organ was dismantled, mended, cleaned and completely rebuilt by early 2023. Now we have started the second phase of the project – Musical Outreach. An important element of this outreach is encouraging a new generation of young organists. In September 2024, we offered our first organ scholarship to Toby Best. After a successful year, we are delighted to announce that we are offering one or more St Thomas' Organ Scholarships again this year. Each scholarship will normally be for 12 months running from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> August the following year.

The Organ Scholarship will be tailored to the successful applicant. The main purpose of the scholarship is to develop skills in organ playing. However, depending on the individual, there will also be opportunities to develop skills in choir accompanying and directing.

### Duties

Depending on the ability and experience of the post holder, duties are likely to include:

- Playing the organ at least once a month for part of a service (eg., hymns, voluntaries, accompanying the anthem)
- Attending choir practices on a Friday evening (6.30pm–8.15pm)
- Accompanying or directing some of the items at choir practices

### Benefits

Organ Scholars will also gain benefits, such as:

- Access to our wonderful rebuilt organ for playing and practising
- One hour per month of free organ tuition with our Director of Music (additional paid lessons by arrangement)
- Regular opportunities to perform
- Possible hands-on experience of accompanying and directing the choir

### Remuneration

As well as receiving one hour per month free organ tuition, the Organ Scholar will be awarded a grant of £300+ depending on experience and level of commitment. The grant can be used as the scholar wishes, to subsidise additional lesson costs or to buy music, for example.

### How to Apply

Applications are now open for the scholarship running from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2026. **The closing date for applications is 28<sup>th</sup> July 2025.** We welcome applications from any talented pianists or organists (Grade 5+ level).

Anyone interested in applying for the Organ Scholarship will be offered a consultation lesson and interview by arrangement sometime in July or August 2025.

To apply or to find out more, contact [officeofgsandss@yahoo.com](mailto:officeofgsandss@yahoo.com)

